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(Sgd.) ....

Date 22/6/70.

YEAR STAMP 1968/9

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

DEPT. ARABIAN

FILE No. NBB 3/359/1 (Part ....)

TITLE: BAHRAIN: POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

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FILE No. NBB 3/359/1 PART ....

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11/12

RECEIVED IN
ARCHIVES No. 5
24 DEC 1968
NBB3/359/1

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BAGHDAD.

R.E 20/12 20/12

13 December 1968

Mr Acland Mr Evans
Mr Beaumont B.20/XII
23/XII Mr Eyres (Arabian Dept)
Mr Rathzcombe 23/12

Iraq-Bahrain

You will I think be interested in the following item which appeared in the press on 13 December.

> In order to strengthen the relations between Iraq and Bahrain, the Council of Ministers has decided that special programmes on Bahrain must be introduced in the "Armed Forces Programme".
>
> The Ministry of Culture and Information will also organise an information programme on Iraq in Bahrain, and will distribute publications, leaflets and advertisements to attract Bahrainis to visit Iraq. It has also been decided to send a number of the Iraqi newspapers to Bahrain through the Iraqi Airways agent in Bahrain.

2. If I can find out anything more behind this particular example of spurious Arab brotherhood I shall let you know.

Mr Pickham (IPD)
Mr Elliott (IRD)
Thus f.a.

(A. E. Saunders)

E. F. Henderson, Esq.,
Residency,
BAHRAIN.

c.c. Chancery:

Tehran
Kuwait
Jedda

D. J. Makinson, Esq.,
Near Eastern Department,
F.C.O.

RESTRICTED

(2)

TOP HOBY

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CYPHER/CAT A

SAVING TELEGRAM

ROUTINE BAHRAIN (AGENCY) TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BAHRAIN AGENCY TELEGRAM NO. 4 SAVING TO BAHRAIN RESIDENCY 22 MARCH 1969

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES No. 5
24 MAR 1969
NBB3 359 1

RESTRICTED

ADDRESSED TO BAHRAIN RESIDENCY TELEGRAM NO SAVING 4 OF 22 MARCH REPEATED FOR INFORMATION TO FCO BAGHDAD TEHRAN KUWAIT JEDDA AND SAVING TO DOHA DUBAI AND ABU DHABI.

BAHRAIN/IRAQ.

THE IRAQI PRIME MINISTER, HARDAN TIKRITI, HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT BAHRAIN FOR THREE DAYS FROM 4 APRIL.

2. THE RULER TOLD ME THAT THE PRESENT IRAQI GOVERNMENT AND ITS PREDECESSOR HAD PRESSED FOR CLOSER TIES WITH BAHRAIN AND THAT AFTER HIS SON'S VISIT TO BAGHDAD IN FEBRUARY HE HAD FELT OBLIGED TO EXTEND THIS INVITATION.

FCO PASS ROUTINE BAGHDAD.

MR. STIRLING

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

DEPARTMENTAL DIST
ARAB. D.
N. EAST. D.
OIL. D.
DEF. POL. D.
MIL. ADV.
NEWS D.

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More gossip, some of it unnecessary to know, I think

3/12

BRITISH POLITICAL AGENCY,

BAHRAIN.

10/4

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY 11 APR 1969

NBB 3/359/1

8 April, 1969

Mr. Balfour-Paul

Mr. Boland

Mr. Hinchcliffe

Mr. McCarthy

Dear Don,

Bahrain/Iraq

Air Marshal Hardan Tikriti, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence visited Bahrain from 4 to 7 April at the head of an official delegation at the invitation of the Ruler. The visit was in return for that made by the Ruler's son, Shaikh Hamad, to Iraq in February. ... I attach the list of delegates (Mahmoud Ali Daoud did not ... in fact come) and a translation of Tikriti's press statement.

2. The visit was the result of a sustained effort by the Iraqis to establish contacts down the Gulf. The Bahrainis had previously evaded pressing suggestions from this Government and its predecessor that such an invitation would be in order. They had eventually decided that they could not afford to be stand-offish indefinitely and had first accepted the Iraqi invitation to Shaikh Hamad and then issued their own. Having taken the plunge they spared no effort. Flags were out on the street. Eleven guns were fired when the Iraqi aircraft landed. The delegation was dined on successive nights by the Ruler, Shaikh Khalifah (the Ruler's brother) and Shaikh Hamad. This was the Iraqi's first experience of Lower Gulf hospitality and they were rather taken aback at the exact sixty minutes from start to finish that each dinner took. They were also given tea by the Chamber of Commerce, shown round the National Guard by Shaikh Hamad and taken to the races by the Ruler. (This being a special occasion a starting pistol was used - but fired only after each race had started, so as not to alarm the horses.)

3. They also watched a football match between a Bahraini team and an Iraqi air force team. This was not on the programme and had given the Bahrainis some heartburning. The Iraqis had cabled to say that they would appreciate an invitation for their team. The Bahrainis replied politely that it was not convenient. The Iraqis riposted giving the ETA of the team's aircraft. On arrival the team and hangers-on, about twenty in all, refused to stay in their hotel and were put into the Guest Palace with Tikriti. They drew one-all in the match, to the delight of the Bahrainis who had fielded

/a

D.J. McCarthy, Esq.,
Arabian Department,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,
LONDON, S.W.1

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a 'B' team as they were saving their best for another match.

4. The Ruler of Bahrain had been apprehensive about the visit, fearing, I think, a flood of instantly subversive Baathis. He was anxious to keep the British connection to the fore and did his best to bring the Political Resident and myself into prominence whenever possible. When the Iraqis turned out to be affable and politically undemanding, he was delighted and saw them off with almost genuine regret.

5. Shaikh Khalifah and Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak, the Director of the new Bahraini Foreign Affairs Department, were more realistic. Mohammed bin Mubarak did much to engineer the visit and did not in the least want to stress the British connection. He and Khalifah had weighed up the risks of giving an opening for subversion and considered them acceptable in order to have a line out to Iraq. They had no wish for formal ties and none were concluded, but they had hoped, I think, to establish some form of meeting of minds. They told me however that the members of the delegation were of pretty low calibre: decidedly, they implied, a cut below themselves. Both shaikhs seemed mildly disappointed and said good-bye to the Iraqis with some relief.

6. Nothing notable has emerged from the visit apart from the fact that it took place. The Iraqis got their entree to Bahrain and the Lower Gulf. Their vague offers of technical aid and vaguer suggestions of defence assistance (the latter did not figure in Tikriti's press statement) were noted but not taken up. Mohammed bin Mubarak remarked that the Iraqis seemed unable to offer anything that Bahrain did not already have. The one point that surprised both the Ruler and Shaikh Khalifah was that Tikriti had said quite clearly that it would be a good thing if the British military presence remained after 1971. Tikriti asked about the British attitude to the Union of Arab Emirates and had been told that we were strongly supporting it, which was more than could be said for some of the Emirates themselves. Ordinary Bahrainis seemed apathetic about the visit, apart from commenting on the torrents of rain that accompanied it. Their main reaction was that it was perhaps not worth making such a fuss over people who probably had very ephemeral lease of power.

7. Under the wing of the visit the Iraqis brought in their prospective Trade Agent here. Shaikh Khalifah said that he could tell that the man was a militant Baathi the moment he saw him. As far as I know, the Trade Agency has not opened.

8. As a tailpiece, I might mention the Ruler's impression of the MV "Al Thawra" (my saving telegram No. 5 to the Residency of 1 April). His views differed from those of the British

/Harbourmaster

Harbourmaster. The crew were friendly enough but they were, he said, scruffy and the ship was filthy inside and out. Although it was a civilian vessel a ragged salute was fired when he arrived. He was not at all sure whether they were firing for him or at him. He also did not think too well of the officials for trying to pretend that it was not the ex-Royal yacht, which he was convinced it was. He had been minded to send for the photographs taken of him with his father, King Faisal II and Nuri Said on that very ship in the days when it was presentable.

Yours,

(A.J.D. Stirling)

c.c.

M.S. Weir, Esq., Residency
P. McKearney, Esq., Baghdad
A.J.M. Craig, Esq., Jedda
J.A.N. Graham, Esq., Kuwait
C.D. Wiggin, Esq., CMG, DFC, AFC, Tehran
A.B. Urwick, Esq., Washington
H.M. Political Agents, Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi
H.M. Consul-General, Muscat.

Iraqi Delegation to Bahrain
4 - 7 April, 1969

Air Marshal Hardan Abdul Ghaffar al-Tikriti,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence

H.E. Abdul Karim al-Shaikhly,
Foreign Minister

H.E. Abdullah al-Salum,
Minister of Education and Culture

H.E. Midhat Jumaa,
Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait

Abdul Hussain al-Jamali,
Director-General of the Arab Department, M.F.A.

Dr. Mahmoud Ali Daoud,
Director General of the Political Department, M.F.A.

Mohammed Said Dusky,
M.F.A.

Colonel Mohammed Ali Said

Major Mohammed Jawad al-Badr.

Lieutenant Ahmad Mukhlis,
A.D.C.

IRAQI VISIT TO BAHRAIN

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE IRAQI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Air Marshal Harden al-Tikriti, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Iraq stated that his visit to Bahrain came in response to an invitation from H.H. Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifah, Ruler of Bahrain. This visit gave him and his delegation the chance to meet their brothers and learn about their situation in this part of the Arab World and to discover suitable methods for developing brotherly ties and co-operation in the field of politics, economics and culture. He announced Iraq's readiness to supply Bahrain with the necessary technical experience and experts.

The Air Marshal expressed his pride in the efforts made by the Ruler of Bahrain and his brothers, the Rulers of the Emirates, and the Arab people of the Gulf, in the achievement of their ambitions in establishing the Union of Arab Emirates. Iraq and the Arab Nation bless these efforts which they consider as a constructive step towards unity.

He also expressed his thanks and gratitude for the hospitality offered to him and his delegation by the Ruler, officials, and people of Bahrain. He admired the achievements and the progress in Bahrain under the leadership of H.H. Shaikh Isa bin Sulman Al Khalifah. He wished Bahrain a prosperous and bright future. Air Marshal al-Tikriti conveyed an invitation from Sayyed Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr, Iraqi President, to H.H. Shaikh Isa bin Sulman to visit Iraq. His Highness accepted the invitation and the date will be fixed later.

****

7 April, 1969

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N883/359/1

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BAHRAIN AGENCY TO FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BAHRAIN AGENCY TELNO 6 TO BAGHDAD 27 NOVEMBER 1969

RESTRICTED

Addressed to Baghdad telegram No. 6 of 27 November. Repeated for information to Jedda and Saving to Bahrain and FCO.

Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa, heir apparent and Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, is to spend two weeks hunting in Southern Iraq from about 1 December. He will cross by land from Saudi Arabia.

2. Offers of official entertainment by Tikriti have been declined. He does not intend to visit Baghdad and expects no British assistance.

FCO pass to Baghdad and Jedda.

Mr. Stirling

[Repeated as requested]

FILES
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N. EAST. D.

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28/11

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(LAST PAPER)

:PHER/CAT A

ROUTINE BAGHDAD

TELEGRAM NO. [illegible]9

TO ~~FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE~~ BAHRAIN AGENCY Arabian Dept (?) (for information)

19 DECEMBER 1969.

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY No. 9 22 DEC 1969

NBB 3/359/1

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PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO BAHRAIN AGENCY AS MY TELNO 9.

Bahrain Also Sharjah ?

ADDRESSED TO BAHRAIN AGENCY TELNO 9 OF 19 DECEMBER RFI TO BAHRAIN RESIDENCY.

Security Entry

BAGHDAD PRESS ANNOUNCES EXPECTED ARRIVAL HERE ON 21 DEC OF SHAIHKABDULLA BIN KHALID, PRESIDENT OF MANAMA MUNICIPALITY, AND 4 MAN DELEGATION ON OFFICIAL VISIT.

2. PURPOSE OF DELEGATION IS NOT STATED. IS ANY ACTION BY US CALLED FOR?

30/12

Mr BALFOUR PAUL

SENT 1302Z 19 DEC 69

RCVD 1344Z 19 DEC 69.

(LAST PAPER)